Airlinks with Pakistan

1656. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any talks with Pakistani counterparts have since taken place for resumption of airlinks with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the progress so far made in this regard; and

(c) by when airlinks with Pakistan are likely to be resumed indicating the airstations proposed to be linked, the frequency of flights and the likely volume of traffic between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Bilateral civil aviation matters are slated to be discussed at technical level between the civil aviation authorities of India and Pakistan on 27-28 August, 2003. The issues of direct air services, overflights, and the specific dates of resumption of civil aviation links on reciprocal basis would be discussed during the meeting.

Helicopter service to pilgrimage centres in Uttaranchal

1657. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether helicopter services have been introduced or are proposed to be introduced for the pilgrimage of some religious centres in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the names thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government are providing aid to the State Government for the construction of some helipads in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, had operated the services, on experimental basis, from Augustmuni to the Holy Shrine of Kedarnath from 16th of May, 2003 to 30th of June, 2003. The services have been temporarily suspended with effect from 1 st July, 2003 due to monsoon.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Implementation of central projects

1658. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Ministry of Finance has tightened the noose on the implementation of all central projects specially those in the infrastructure sector;

(b) whether any directives have been issued that project appraisals and formulations will have to be completed with 16 weeks from conceptualisation to tying up of funds; and

(c) if so, the details of the fresh norms issued by his Ministry in respect of projects specially social and infrastructure projects and the dates from which they are to be enforced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a)Sir, procedures are already laid down for review/monitoring of implementation of all Central projects, including infrastructure projects.

(b) Guidelines have been issued prescribing a time period of 16 weeks for appraisal of projects (excluding the time taken for preparation of DPR) costing Rs.50 crore and above.

(c) As per fresh guidelines, preparation of Feasibility Report (FR) is necessary for obtaining 'in-principle' approval of the Planning Commission had inclusion of the project/scheme (costing Rs.50 crore and above) in the Plan of the concerned Ministry/Department. Thereafter a Detailed Project Report (DPR) has to be prepared for inter-ministerial consultations. A generic structure for the DPR has been incorporated in the guidelines. The guidelines are applicable for all Central Government funded plan schemes/projects and are applicable *w.e.f.* 01.07.2003.

Airport Handling by IA

1659. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines proposes to establish a